

**REMARKS**

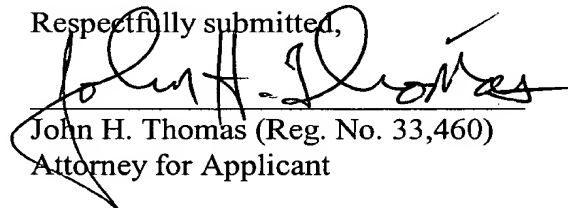
At the outset, counsel for Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the discussions with the Examiner in reaching language in the claims that best clarify the invention and that put them in condition for allowance. In summary, those discussions were centered on merely clarifying the invention and adding the language noted herein to more clearly separate the claimed invention from the noted prior art.

As a result of the amendment herein, claims 1, 3 and 8-11 are remaining (claims 8 and 9 were previously amended in the Paper submitted by Applicant on June 11, 2001).

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested hereon.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John H. Thomas (Reg. No. 33,460)  
Attorney for Applicant

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO  
& BRANIGAN, P.C.  
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400  
2200 Clarendon Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
Telephone: (703) 243-6333  
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Date: November 19, 2001

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

1. (Twice Amended) A binder apparatus comprising:
  - a first cover portion having a top edge, a bottom edge, a first side edge, and a second side edge;
  - a first spine portion having a top edge, and a width therebetween a bottom edge, a first side edge and a second side edge, said first side edge being hingeably connected to a side edge of said first cover portion,
  - a second cover portion having a top edge, a bottom edge, a first side edge, and a second side edge, the first side edge of said second cover portion being hingeably connected to the second edge of said first spine portion,
  - said first cover portion, said first spine portion, and said second cover portion defining a notebook with a first side, a second side, a top side, and a bottom side, ~~and~~
  - a second spine portion, said second spine portion having a top edge, a bottom edge, a first side edge, and a second side edge and a width therebetween, and being hingeably connected to the second side portion of said second cover portion by its first side edge; and
  - a first binder mounted on the first spine portion and a second binder mounted on the second spine portion, wherein each binder has a width, and the width of each binder is less than the width of the respective spine portion onto which the binders are mounted ~~the first and second binders are mounted in an offset relationship.~~